(b) Imported technology does not lead to international exploitation of labourers. In fact, imported technology helps industries in the country to carry on with their businesses and saves them time, efforts and resources in developing the same technologies in-house. Although imported technology by itself prevents industry from becoming a global player since it does not bring in the latest state-of-the-art technology, Indian industries in some sectors have been able to absorb the imported technology successfully and develop it further indigenously, contributing to the technological advancement of the sector.

(c) Development of technology has certainly not remained independent of intellectual property rights and patents granted in various technical fields. Now, development of any new technology usually starts with a patent search in the concerned field to find out about the research work already done, so as to avoid reinventing the wheel and formulating the technology development problem appropriately with a view to add value to existing research and development work and generate new intellectual property or patents.

(d) According to the Research and Development Statistics published by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the percentage of expenditure incurred on research and development in India was 0.89% of Gross National Product (GNP) in 2005-06 or Rs. 28,777 crore in absolute terms. The projected R&D expenditure for 2007-08 is Rs. 37,778 crore.

(e) The usual R and D output indicators are patents granted and research papers published. According to the Research and Development Statistics published by the Department of Science and Technology, patents granted to Indians in India increased from 293 in 1996-97 to 1907 in 2006-07 and research papers published from India increased from 51002 in 1993 to 68830 in 2003. Other R and D output indicators are products, processes, import substitutes and design prototypes developed and consultancy services rendered by the public and private sector institutions and industries as outcome of R and D carried out by them. According to the statistics for the year 1999-2000 published by DST, 6056 products, 2233 processes, 2667 import substitutes and 4193 design prototypes were developed and 35568 consultancy services were rendered by the public and private sector institutions and industries.

Benefits from TIFAC sponsored project

†387. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some time back his Ministry had inaugurated a mobile hospital and research unit for the improvement of health and medical services; and

(b) the benefits by this Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) sponsored project and the type of research material made available through this medium?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. This was a joint project of Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), Department of Health, Government of Uttarakhand and was being implemented by Birla Institute of Scientific Research, Bhimtal. The project was completed in March, 2008. The mobile van followed two identified routes covering six districts of Uttarakhand *i.e.*, Champawat, Nainital, Almora, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh and Chamoli. Total camps organised in a period of about five and a half years were 1018 (almost one camp on every alternate day) treating about one lakh patients. Out of these 54% patients belonged to below poverty line. During the camps, health awareness related information we also communicated through audio-visual facilities. Valuable information and data was collected during this experiment relating to disease profile on the basis of gender, age, season and different locations.

Formulation of New Textile Policy

388. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to formulate New Textile Policy to bring significant changes in this sector with the objective of creating additional employment opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of concessions *i.e.*, grant of subsidy for purchase of equipment, lower stamp duty for registration of the units and grant of loans to speed up the process, etc.;

(d) the status of setting of apparel parks in the country and whether any such park has been set up or is proposed to be set up in Orissa and Jharkhand regions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (b) The National Textile Policy – 2000 formulated in the year 2000 with an objective of strengthening textile industry including creating additional employment opportunities is in vogue and it is applicable till 2010. Govt. formulates new textile policies from time to time based on the needs of the industry.

(c) (i) In order to facilitate modernization/technology upgradation of textiles mills, Government had launched Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textile and Jute Industries w.e.f. 1.4.1999 for a period of 5 years which was subsequently extended up to 31.3.2007 and further extended during Eleventh Five Year Plan upto 31/03/2012. It is a credit linked scheme and provides interest reimbursement of 5% points on the interest charged by the lending agency on a TUFS compatible machinery/project. The scheme provides an additional option